The Quiet Corner

THE ARTS, DINING, ANTIQUES, ATTRACTIONS & SO MUCH MORE...

PUTNAM TRAVELER

Supporting Tourism & Communities in Northeastern, CT & Beyond...

ISSUE NO. 32 • NORTHEASTERN, CONNECTICUT

DOWNTOWN MAP INSIDE • OCTOBER - NOVEMBER 2011

For an afternoon, a day, or a weekend...come and enjoy Northeastern Connecticut!

The Big Dog Show - Rotary Park Putnam

Goodbye heat and humidity (and tropical storms)...HELLO Autumn. Time to throw on your jacket and enjoy the Last Green Valley in all its' beauty! Do you enjoy dogs? Visit the Labrador show at the Brooklyn Fairgrounds. Do you like art? Come to Putnam for First Fridays or enjoy an Artists' Open Studio Tour. Ready for some Christmas shopping? Local shops, restaurants, spas, and wineries offer unique gifts for the whole family. Want to explore the great outdoors? Visit the Connecticut Audubon Center in Pomfret or join the Last Green Valley Walktober events happening throughout the month of October. Like to eat? Northeastern Connecticut is home to gourmet restaurants and fun little eateries. All of this with a backdrop of rolling hills, farms & agriculture, and historic architecture...why would you want to go anywhere else?

Great Pumpkin Festival, Putnam

INSIDE:

A calendar of events...Local Advertisers...RAW...skateboarding makes a comeback in Putnam...The Brooklyn Fairgrounds is host to the ***Labrador Retriever Club's National Specialty Event in October...*** this event is expected to draw over One Million dollars to the area...

The Lois Orswell Granssland Bird Conservation Center is open for business in Pomfret...Over 200 species of birds have been observed in the Bafflin Sanctuary... ***The Weekend Planner...***an itinerary of things to see & do...***Dear Santa***...community members share their wish lists providing some great ideas for shopping locally... ***Leslie Sweetnam***...captures the beauty of the region through aerial photography...and the ***Exchange Club of Northeastern Connecticut*** celebrates 50 years and over $500,000 in donations to the local community...Don't miss the ***October Beer Fest***, Ocotober 5th at JD Coopers, to benefit the domestic violence prevention initiative... and so much more! We hope all of our readers enjoy the Putnam Traveler and that you will support the local businesses of northeaster Connecticut this holiday season and throughout the year!

Downtown Putnam & Area Maps • Businesses • Local Activities • Shopping & Calendar of Events

Northeastern Connecticut is Forty-Five Minutes from Casinos, Hartford, & Providence
Twenty Minutes from Worcester • One Hour from Boston • Three Hours from New York City

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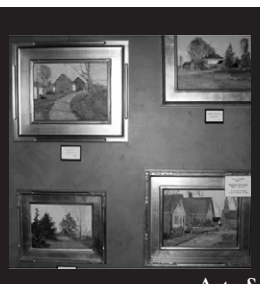
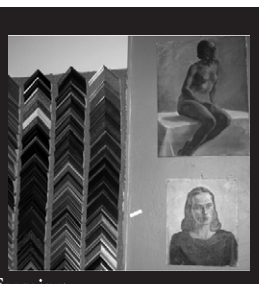
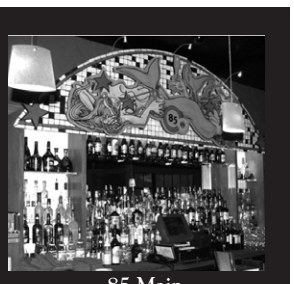


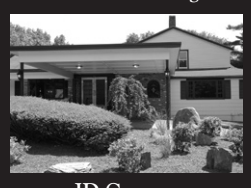


Arts & Framing



85 Main

Desired Weddings

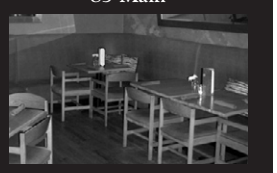


JD Coopers

Glimpse of Gaia

Wonderland Books

Antiques Marketplace



"Named one of New England's Top 15 Small Towns to Visit."

– Boston Magazine

Discover PUTNAM CONNECTICUT

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Putnam is a cozy little community located along the Quinebaug River in the heart of Northeastern Connecticut.

Filled with antique shops, art galleries, boutiques, fine dining, casual dining, bistros, cafes, bakeries & live theater...Putnam has the charm of a small New England town...but with plenty to do & see! Putnam has become the premiere shopping and dining destination for residents of Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts and New York.

From Gourmet to Casual – Great Dining Choices
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First Fridays May through December (first Friday of every month @ 5pm)
Art, Demos, Music, Entertainment in downtown Putnam
September 14th - October 2nd - The Big Dog Show in Rotary Park
October 22nd - Great Pumpkin Festival/Train Excursion in downtown Putnam
October 28th, 5 to 7pm - Trick or Treat Night,
Downtown Putnam from Riverfront Commons to Union Square
Friday, November 25th, 4pm - Santa Visits Putnam, Riverfront Commons
Sunday, November 27th, 5pm - Holiday Dazzle Light Parade, downtown Putnam

Putnam BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

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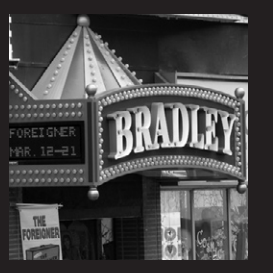
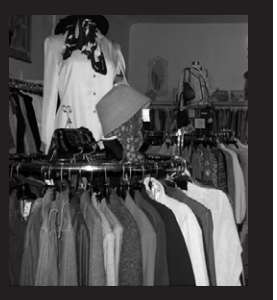


Main St. Grille

Panache



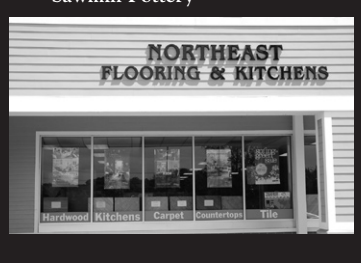
Silver Circle Studio

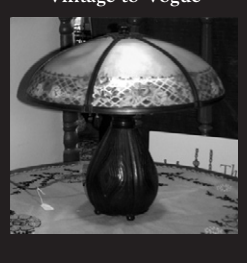
Sawmill Pottery

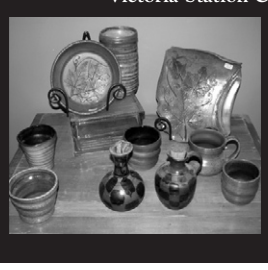
Vintage to Vogue

Victoria Station Cafe

The Arc Gift Shop







RAW

When I heard that a skateboard shop was moving into Putnam at the beginning of this year, I wondered how it could last...as far as I could tell, there were no skateboarders in Putnam. Well, you know what they say: "If you build it, they will come." And they did. Since the grand opening of RAW on April 1st, 2011, I've watched the skateboarders come out of the woodwork. I've known that we have a skate park in town adjacent to the Police Station, but I had no idea that anyone ever used it. I was wrong...

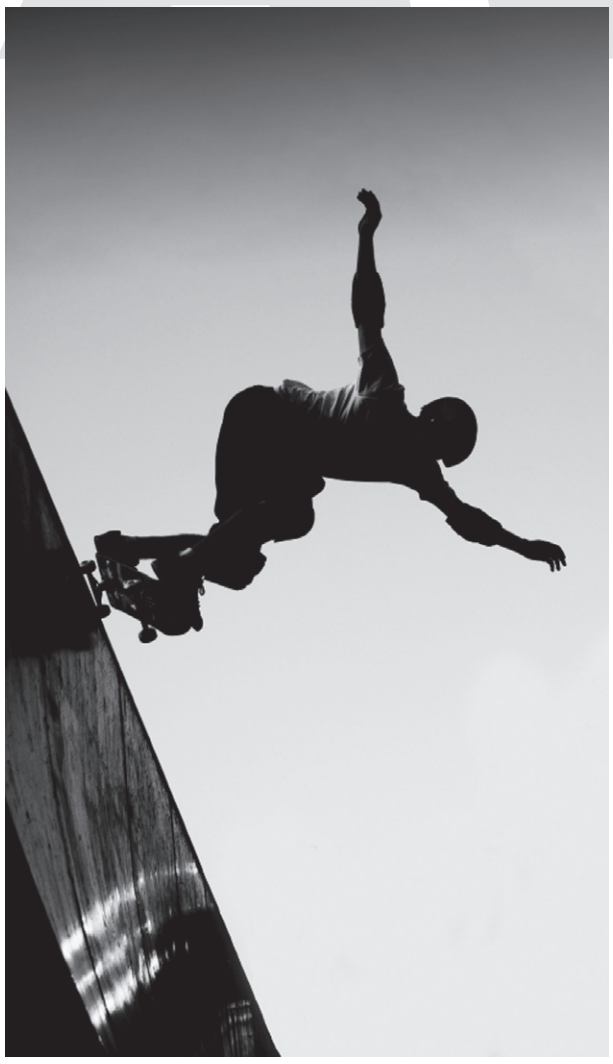
BY DOT BURNWORTH

Walking into RAW's retail space in the bottom of the Montgomery Ward Building, I felt a bit out of place—probably too old, and definitely not hip enough to relate to these guys. The shop has an urban garage feel, reminiscent of Urban Outfitters or the new look at EMS: raw plywood displays, exposed pipes, cement floor. At first glance, the guys at RAW and I don't have much in common. After spending an afternoon chatting with them, learning about their business as well as the skateboarding culture, I realized that we actually are quite similar.

RAW (Ready Amongst Willing) was the brainchild of Kevin Susienka and Steve Costello in February 2006. The two skateboarders worked together at another skateboard store in Harvard Square called Concepts. Kevin and Steve shared a love of skateboarding as well as design. They'd get together after work and play with ideas and concepts for skateboard "decks." Soon, they came up with RAW. Just for fun, the guys went out and bought 100 skateboards and 250 T-shirts on credit. Having no idea how far they could actually go with this, they had their logo printed on the merchandise and set to work selling it.

Kevin laughed as he told me the story, "Those 100 skateboards were all the same size: 7 1/2, which is not a popular size skateboard." I can tell as I watch him tell the story that he almost still doesn't believe that they were successful, given their starting point. Now, however, just 4 1/2 years later, the business partners own two retail shops (the original location is in Somerville, MA) and a worldwide brand that is continuing to gain recognition and popularity. The stores have branched out to include other merchandise as well, appealing to sports fans and tradesmen, among others. They are proud to be the only skateboard retailer in America that has a Carhartt Workware account.

Despite their almost overnight success, they are still clearly dedicated to their local supporters. They believe that their local success is built on personal interaction with the skateboard community, both in the store and at the skate park. To the business owners, as well as the customers, skateboarding is more than just a hobby. Kevin explained, "If you do it long enough, it changes how you look at the world." This seemingly insignificant activity has certainly changed his life. Kevin began skating back in 1987. He was just a kid who thought skateboarding was fun. He enjoyed learning new tricks, but he saw his limitations. He described how skateboarding was a confidence builder for him at a young age. Once he learned to accomplish difficult moves on his skateboard, he was able to apply these concepts of dedication and hard work to other aspects of his life. Those lessons from the skateboard are what he hopes will make him a great business owner.

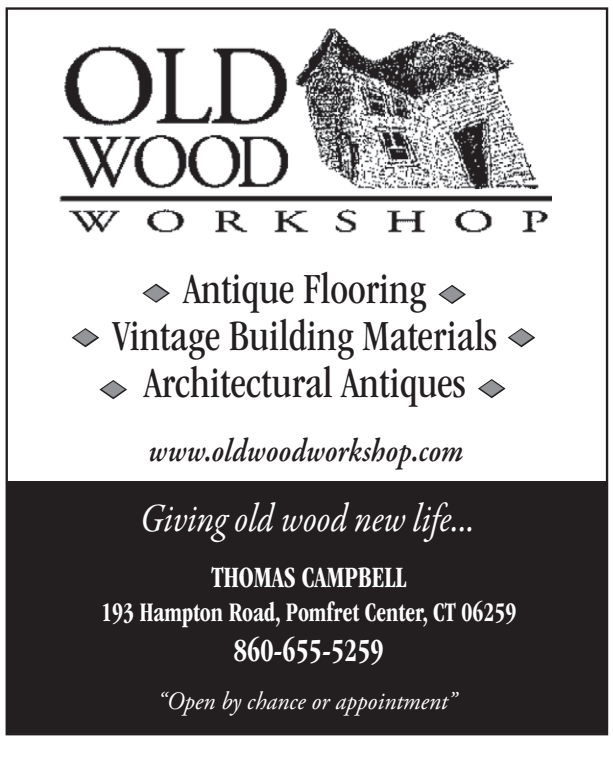


At the skate park, the boys look out for one another and take care of each other. "We have rules," says Steve. "If they get in each other's way, politeness and civility is the norm."

As I listened to this skater-turned-business-owner tell me his narrative, I reflected on how similar our stories are. I learned the "hard work pays off" lesson through a more traditional path of sports and academics, but it is the same message in the end. I considered stereotypes I've heard about skateboarders in the past: that they're punks, delinquents, anti-social. I asked Kevin and the boys hanging out in the shop about this. I caught knowing glances flying across the room. Apparently, they've all had numerous run-ins with strangers who've accosted them, simply for holding or riding a skateboard. "Skateboarding is not always received well by the general public," said Josh Mathews, a 20-year-old art major at QVCC." People dwell on the image [of skateboarders] rather than the actual person on the skateboard."

Skateboarding, as well as being a sport with tricks, is a mode of transportation, like riding a bike or walking. While two people walking down the street might bump elbows and simply apologize and move on, when a skateboarder comes too close to a pedestrian, they might be read the riot act. The skaters find this sort of incident ironic. In the skateboarding world, there is a strong culture with unwritten rules regarding basic human courtesy and community values.

At the skate park, the boys look out for one another and take care of each other. "We have rules," says Steve. If they get in each other's way, politeness and civility is the norm. They expect this of each other in interactions on the street as well. It is important to them that they maintain this level of respect both for each other and the general public, especially on the street. After all, the street is where they like to skate the most, and they risk



Kevin Susienka - RAW

losing that right through negative interactions with the community. While the skaters expect a certain level of courtesy and respect from each other, they don't always see this from others. Many people instantly imagine that the skater has a negative intent, when the reality is that they are most often just trying to get down the street like everyone else.

As we all sat there chatting, kids quietly filtered in and out, needing a wrench to fix a loose wheel or just a place to sit and relax for a while in a place they feel welcomed. In the few months that RAW has been in business in Putnam, they've made an impact on the skateboarding culture. Mathews describes how RAW is helping revive skateboarding in Putnam. I can feel his excitement when he recounts how he heard that this Boston-based brand was coming to Putnam.

The business owners are equally animated about their move to this area. They see Putnam as up and coming. They love the city feel of this small town in the middle of the Last Green Valley. They chose it as the location for their second retail shop for its charm

as well as its untapped potential in the skateboarding world. They'd love to see skateboarding explode in the next 5 years, because they believe in the positive power it has had on their lives. Kids who get involved in skateboarding become more physically fit and goal oriented. And, in this age of relating to their peers digitally through Facebook and texting, skateboarding sends kids outside, together, where they make friends and learn to be part of a community.

This sense of community is also at the core of the art behind the skateboards. On the wall of the shop, there are rows of skateboards with a huge variety of artwork on the bottoms. Kevin expounds on them with pride, explaining how all RAW designs are created by artists who also skate, and the RAW skateboards are all completely American made. Unlike some of the larger skateboard companies, Kevin and Steve believe in keeping it local and giving credit where credit is due.

All the RAW decks acknowledge the designers who created the artwork. Their designs are often influenced by the larger culture: music, abstract art, and history are all reflected on boards in his shop. I was particularly struck by the images of historical sites in Boston on three of the decks, depicting the Old North Church, the old Statehouse, and the Custom House Clock Tower.

To categorize RAW as a simple skateboard shop would be to miss so much of what they're offering. Steve explained, "On top of being skateboarders, we are big New England sports fans and we like to build things from scratch, (not the least of which is their own stores) and we feel that our products reflect and compliment our lifestyle." Kevin followed, summarizing, "The business is a reflection of us from the product we sell to the way we teach kids to deal with people. Yes, we are skateboarders. Yes, we are business owners. But our main intent is to make this spot in the bottom of the Montgomery Ward building a center for youth culture. Based on how we carry ourselves, we want young people to see that the way to get somewhere in life and to be successful is to work hard and to not be afraid to have a strong set of values that you share with people."

"All that stuff that I learned from skateboarding carries over into how we treat people who walk in the door...same way I'd treat someone on the sidewalk and same way we treat others in the skate park." And with that, it became clear exactly how and why a big city skateboard company could fit in and survive life in the Quiet Corner.

www.rawnewengland.com

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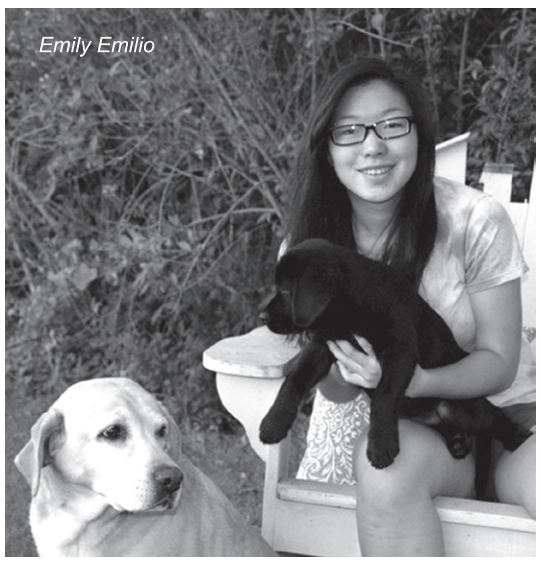
FOR THE LOVE OF LABRADORS

The Brooklyn Fairgrounds will be teeming with four-footed visitors and their two-footed owners when the 2011 Labrador Retriever Club, Inc. opens its National Specialty Event Week from October 10-16, 2011.

BY NANCY WEISS

Pomfret resident, Tony Emilio, a member of the National Specialty and Regional Specialty Show, is internationally recognized as a breeder of Labrador Retrievers. He promoted the northeastern Connecticut region as a fine venue for the event, emphasizing the rural nature of the area and the facilities at the fairgrounds. He then set to work to make all the arrangements necessary to host more than 800 human participants and between 1,000 and 1,100 dogs.


Emily Emilio

"We are expecting a large turn-out. I'm delighted to show my friends from across the country and the world the natural beauty of northeastern Connecticut. I'm also pleased to think that the event will add over $1 million to the area as each participant spends about $1,200 during the week," said Emilio with a wry smile.

Events focus on obedience, conformation and agility with a rally trial, hunting and tracking test and Junior Showmanship classes. Puppies and veterans participate in sweepstakes events. A non-competitive event, the Dog For All Reasons (DFAR), gives dogs and handlers a chance to showcase the versatility. A competitive event, The challenge, provides participants with an opportunity to compete against other teams entered in multiple events.

Marianne Foote, the 2011 National Specialty Event Committee Liaison and a Labrador breeder for more than half a century, noted that this year, the Labrador Retriever Club, Inc. is celebrating the 80th anniversary of the founding of the club.

Labrador Retrievers are the most popular breed in the world because they are so versatile. In addition to their role as a popular family dog, a hunting companion and dependable service dog, Labradors have been involved as search and rescue dogs at disaster sites such as 9/11, Katrina , Oklahoma City, and Japan's tsunami cities according to Foote, who notes that the dogs trace their roots to Newfoundland, where they were bred as companions for fishermen.

"The LRC rotates the location of the National Specialty from one time zone to another so that we can visit unique areas of the country and provide exhibitors from across the U.S. with an opportunity to attend. We are very pleased by the response to this year's event in Brooklyn. People are coming from overseas, Bermuda and across the country. It will be a very special party," said Foote.

One of Emilio's favorite events is the Rescue Parade, which will be held at noon on Thursday, October 13. At the Exhibition Only event, Labrador Retrievers and the people who have saved them from abandonment, abuse or shelters, are recognized and given a commemorative gift. Each dog is introduced and its story is shared with the audience.

Anyone who owns a rescued Labrador may join in the event. E-mail the Events Coordinator, Terri McFadden at mstslabs@msn.com for an entry form or download the form from the LRC website: **www.thelabradoreclub.com**

Emilio has spent the past year making all the arrangements necessary to hosting such a large assemblage of people and animals. He reserved rooms in local hotels and contacted vendors who will offer food for humans as well as accessories of every description for dogs. One evening the participants will dine at the Golden Lamb in Brooklyn and on another, at the Harvest in Pomfret. Guest speakers will be on tap each night, including Petra Ford, a world class dog obedience and rehabilitation expert.

Lab Village will create a special option for visitors to the Brooklyn Fairgrounds. Twenty RVs will be available for rent allowing participants to stay on the grounds during the show. Fencing around the fairgrounds adds to the suitability of the site for a dog-centered program.

"The whole idea of the Lab Specialty is camaraderie, competition and education, " said Emilio in citing the multiple options he has developed for participants.

Emilio, a soft-spoken man who serves as a local Selectman, chose Labs after growing up with long-haired dogs that needed grooming. He wanted a dog that likes to have fun and play ball while also being good in the home and with children. He found it in Labrador Retrievers. Emilio raises his puppies under the kennel prefix name of Tonmar in Pomfret, and has been active for more than twenty-five years with the breed. Through the dogs, he, his wife, Martha, and daughter, Emily, have developed bonds with families from all over the world.

"It may be hard for some people to grasp, but for those of us who love Labs, this event is a different world in which everything is about the dog. It is the Disney World to Lab people and that is why they come," Emilio said. All events are open to the public and free of charge. Area residents are urged to visit the Brooklyn Fairgrounds for a glimpse of the special relationship between humans and dogs.

For further information contact Tony Emilio at tony@majilly.com.

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Featured Homes For Sale

IN THE QUIET CORNER

Prudential Connecticut Realty

New Listing!

Architect Designed Pomfret Home

No this is not the Hamptons! Built in 1998 by a renowned local architect, this neo-classic style home is just filled with all the classic details that really make a house a home: eyebrow windows, multi-paned French doors, columns on arched open porches, transoms, front and back balconies and several floor to ceiling bay windows. Sitting back off the road on 17 private acres, this 3600 SF home is sunlight and wonderful with fireplaces in the family room, living room and library, a first floor guest suite and double staircases to 4 bedrooms upstairs! **Asking $660,000**
Visit E251538.prudentialct.com

Preserved Pomfret Views Abound

Enjoy rolling pastoral views of the preserved 100-acre farm, located on one of Pomfret's lovely quiet side streets with quick access to everything....this handsome contemporary home is nicely set back from the roadway and enjoys a gated drive, stonewall surround and lovely professionally landscaped gardens and bluestone patios! Featuring 4000 sf, this sprawling open floor plan home enjoys a new designer kitchen, 4 bedrooms and 4-1/2 baths and whistles and bells galore! Oh, and there is a wonderful outdoor brick pizza oven to enjoy all year-round and maybe even during a power outage!
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Cut your commute short and work from home! This gracious ca. 1784 home has all the whistles and bells all good antiques should: 7 fireplaces, wide board floors and 12x12 windows. The country kitchen is huge with double islands and large multi-pane windows to enjoy the view outdoors and has a cathedral ceiling with a floor to ceiling fireplace and wet bar. Featuring 5 bedrooms and 4-1/2 baths...the master suite is lovely with his and her walk-in closets with built-ins galore and a sitting room! **On 3.74 Acres for $290,000**
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A Haven for Nature Lovers

The Lois Orswell Grassland Bird Conservation Center in Pomfret is open for business! Business, in this case, means bird watching, education, guided walks, summer camps and other programs for bird and nature lovers of all ages.

BY CRIS CADIZ

Although the official grand opening was still months away, the new Grassland Conservation Center was decked out for Owl Garden Party on June 22nd. Hundreds of people braved drenching rain to support this annual fundraising effort for the Connecticut Audubon at Pomfret. They also came to see the new building and to sample goodies provided by local restaurants, vineyards and catering businesses.

Built to resemble the historic 1895 barn it replaced on Day Road, the new building is an open and airy space. It features polished concrete floors, pale yellow walls and exposed beams, some of which were salvaged from the original barn. Offices and a large classroom space occupy one end of the building. The other end will feature grassland bird and other natural history displays and double as a lecture hall/meeting space. There is lots of wall space on which to exhibit local artwork by local artists–a community endeavor started five years ago at the old center. And the view from the windows is simply stunning.

The Center sits in the midst of the 700-acre Bafflin Sanctuary. Surrounded by acres of open grassland framed by woods in the distance, the building is also across the road from an important wetlands feature, where hundreds of visitors have watched kestrels hunt, herons stalk and meadowlarks dance. The site also offers easy access to the sanctuary's walking trails.

The CT Audubon Center at Pomfret had outgrown the small office and classroom space on Route 169 a number of years ago. Started in the midst of a recession, the new construction project's success was a bit tenuous. However, the importance of the organization to the local and regional population was not ignored.

The Quiet Corner is fortunate to claim this nature preserve as part of the area's unique and distinctive attractions. Over 200 species have been observed on Bafflin Sanctuary. This conserved land is considered an "important bird area" and in addition to grassland and shrubland habitat, it contains beaver ponds, a hemlock ravine, streams, and over 10 miles of walking trails with interpretive signage.

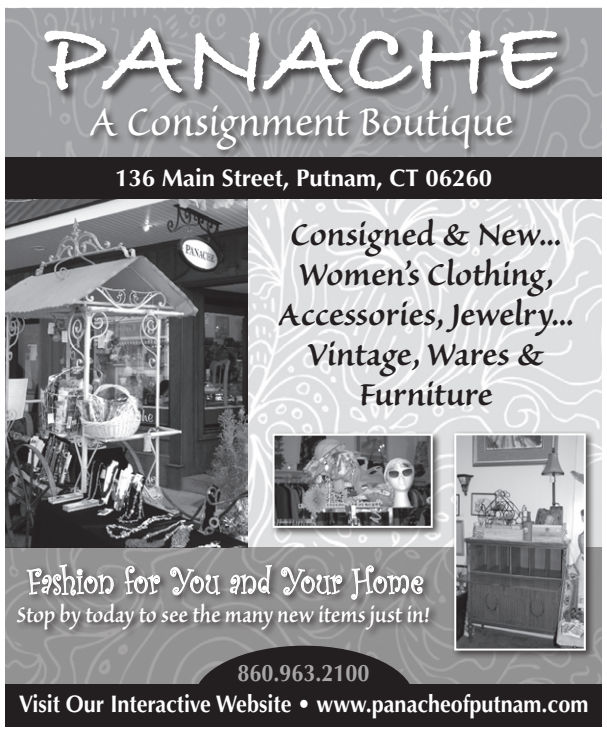
"Despite the sluggish economy," says Executive Director Sarah Heminway, "the community of northeastern Connecticut stepped up and we reached the two million dollar campaign goal needed to construct and endow the new Center." Heminway gratefully acknowledges Campaign Chair Ben Williams and past and present regional board members, "...all of whom contributed generously to the project."

After the 1895 barn was taken down piece by piece, the new 5,000-square-foot Center was built by Rose Construction of Pomfret. Despite a difficult winter with heavy snows, construction remained on schedule. The building design, by Russ Campaigne of Campaigne and Kestner Architects, includes education/lecture hall, classrooms to meet demand, grassland conservation exhibit area, and gallery space.

Heminway is grateful for many people who helped move the project toward a successful completion. This includes the construction companies and architects, the fundraising team and the building committee of Fran Baranski, Paula Coughlin, Tony Mongillo, Nate Rosebrooks, and Dom Tedeschi–volunteers who served on this project for four years. "We are so grateful for their hard work, craftsmanship, ingenuity and abundant sense of humor!" says Heminway. "Thanks to everyone's generosity, hard work and vision, northeastern Connecticut now has a new Conservation Center that we can all be very proud of and enjoy for years to come."

Ben Williams, founding regional board member and longtime supporter and volunteer, notes that this center is important to both the environmental community and the local community. While the new Center offers the ability to provide expanded services in education and programs, it also serves as a beautiful landmark for people to enjoy the setting. It fulfills many wishes. "We needed space & now we have it. We had a parking problem and now it's solved. And the setting couldn't be nicer. We just had a wedding reception there on Friday," Williams says.

BRADLEY
Theatre of Northeastern Connecticut
30 Front Street (Rt. 44) Downtown Putnam, Connecticut
WAIT UNTIL DARK
October 7, 8, 14, 15, 21, 22 at 7 p.m. • October 9, 16, 23 at 2 p.m.
Susy, a blind Greenwich Village housewife, becomes the target of three con-men searching for the heroin hidden in a doll that has come into her possession. The con-men terrorize Susy and threaten her if she does not turn over the doll, but Susy is incredibly clever, and turns the tables in this edge of your seat thriller. The final scene and twist is not to be missed!
Non-musical: $17 for Adults • $14 for Students/Senior Citizens
Annie
December 2, 3, 9, 10, 16, 17 at 7 p.m. • December 4, 11, 18 at 2 p.m. The Broadway classic returns to the Bradley to tell the story of everyone's favorite orphan.
Winner of the Tony Award for Best Musical with such classics as "Tomorrow" and "It's a Hard-Knock Life", Annie is the perfect feel good treat for the holidays!
Musical: $21 for Adults • $18 for Students/Senior Citizens
Tickets Available at:
Wonderland Books, 120 Main St., Putnam, CT
Victoria Station Cafe, 91 Main St., Putnam, CT
For reservations call 860-928-7887 or online at
www.thebradleyplayhouse.org ~ All seats general admission



Heminway's favorite parts of the new building are "...the expansive views from every window and the green elements of the building–one of which are the timbers we were able to reuse from the former barn. We had hoped to restore the 1895 Barn but it proved too expensive. So we took it down board by board and replaced it with our new Center. The building is visually similar from an architectural point of view, so we were able to save the cultural landscape."

The Grassland Bird Conservation Center is truly unique. As part of the Connecticut Audubon Society--a statewide organization unrelated to the National Audubon Society–this new center "is the first of Connecticut Audubon Society's habitat-based centers," says Sarah Heminway, Director of Northeast Corner Programs. "As an organization, our other facilities are developing their own unique habitat focus enhancing visitation and the public's knowledge of Connecticut's rich diversity."

"The state has centers in several different areas," adds Williams. "Each serves a certain habitat. For example, Milford's Center is coastal. Each center features birds and programs totally different from ours."

Owl Garden Party

GRAND OPENING AND OPEN HOUSE
THE LOIS ORSWELL GRASSLAND BIRD CONSERVATION CENTER Oct. 8, 9 & 10
Ribbon cutting (Saturday, Oct. 8th, 10 a.m.), guided walks, activities and refreshments. Free and open to all! Visit www.ctaudubon.org/center-at-pomfret for more information and a list of programs.

Located in Connecticut's 'Quiet Corner,' Connecticut Audubon Society's Grassland Bird Conservation Center at Pomfret is surrounded by rural beauty and adjoins the Society's 700-acre Bafflin Sanctuary, with its vast rolling meadows and grasslands habitats. The Center is a community-based facility that will actively manage habitat for grassland and offer environmental education programs, bird walks and nature events,Citizen Science training and projects, and many opportunities to learn about and explore the natural world.

"The building itself is wonderful," says Williams. "But the setting...it sits on one of the largest intact grasslands in New England. Inside the building, you look out into this open space. You are surrounded by 700 acres of distinct habitat that is increasingly scarce in Connecticut and all over. Most open space is developed or farmed or if it's left alone it grows into woods. The species found in grasslands–such as bobolinks, savannah sparrows, kestrels, and more–are in trouble. We provide folks the opportunity to see and learn about this habitat and the indigenous species found there. This may also encourage landowners to manage their property to increase and protect this habitat."

Even if you never sign up for a nature walk or educational program, a visit to the Grassland Bird Conservation Center in Pomfret is worth the trip. "Bafflin Sanctuary's trails are open from dawn to dusk every day with no charge," says Williams. "Come out and see for yourself."

Mental Health & Addiction Services
Treatment programs offered in:
Danielson
Enfield
Groton
Mansfield
Montville
Norwich
Old Saybrook
Putnam
Vernon
Windham
Children
Adolescents
Adults
Inpatient, Day & Evening Programs
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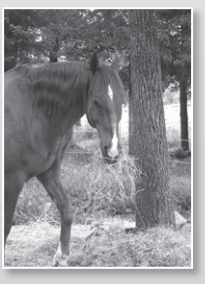

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(860) 928-0571 • Mon - Sat 9-5, Sunday Seasonal
www.gardengatefloristct.com

Calendar of Events

October

Month of October
Walktober
The annual event includes free guided walks, rides and paddles, and promotes events associated with the mission of the Quinebaug Shetucket Heritage Corridor.
www.thelastgreenvalley.org

7, 8, 14, 15, 21 & 22 @ 7pm
9, 16 & 23 at 2pm
Wait Until Dark
Bradley Playhouse, Putnam, CT
Susy, a blind Greenwich Village housewife, becomes the target of three con-men searching for the heroin hidden in a doll that has come into her possession. The con-men terrorize Susy and threaten her if she does not turn over the doll, but Susy is incredibly clever, and turns the tables in this edge of your seat thriller. The final scene and twist is not to be missed!
Non-musical: $17 for Adults • $14 for Students/ Senior Citizens www.thebradleyplayhouse.org

10th - 16th
2011 Labrador Retriever Club, Inc. Opens its National Specialty Event Week
Brooklyn Fairgrounds, Brooklyn, CT
See article on page 4 of this issue of the Putnam Traveler.

13th & 15th
Season of the Witch Tea
Celebrations Gallery & Shoppes, Pomfret, CT
Begin with freshly brewed pots of two specialty teas with unlimited refills then enjoy a soup course followed by three tiers of savories & tea sandwiches warm Celebrations' scones sweet treats & dessert. **Afternoon Tea Served at 2 pm, $28 per person, reservations required.**
www.celebrationsshoppes.com

15th-16th, 10-4:30pm
(Rain or Shine)
Annual Fine Arts & Crafts Festival at Roseland Cottage
Woodstock, CT
This festival is one of the leading juried fine arts and crafts shows in New England and features 175 artisans and their wares - jewelry, woodworking, pottery, clothing, metalwork, and much more. Enjoy live music, a food court, and first floor tours of Roseland Cottage.
Admission: free to Historic New England members and children under 12, $5 nonmembers
www.historicnewengland.org

22nd
3rd Annual Northeastern, CT Pumpkin Festival & Train Excursion
Putnam, CT
Featuring live music, a huge craft fair, pumpkin carving, kids events, pumpkin cuisine from local restaurants, and much more!
www.discoverputnam.com

28th @ 5pm
Putnam's Trick-or-Treat Night
Downtown Putnam
Businesses from Jessica Tuesday's to Jade Garden Restaurant will hand out free candy to the kids. Safe and fun! **www.winyradio.com**

November

10th & 12th
Harvest of Plenty Tea
Celebrations Gallery & Shoppes, Pomfret, CT
Begin with freshly brewed pots of two specialty teas with unlimited refills then enjoy a soup course followed by three tiers of savories & tea sandwiches warm Celebrations' scones sweet treats & dessert. Afternoon Tea Served at 2 pm, $28 per person, reservations required.
www.celebrationsshoppes.com

19th, 9-4pm
20th Annual Festival of Crafts
Shepherd Hill Regional High School
68 Dudley Oxford Road, Dudley, MA
Shepherd Hill Music Parents' Association presents the 20th Annual Festival of Crafts. Over 150 crafters at our festival, and all crafts must be hand made. We have free on site parking, a bake sale, a raffle, food that may be purchased, carry out service to your car and music provided by various singing groups at the high school. This festival provides most of the funds for the music department. **Admission is $5.**

25th-27th
Thanksgiving Day Weekend Holiday Celebration
Woodstock Merchants
Visit Woodstock Merchants during their Holiday Open House Weekend!
www.explorewoodstock.com

25, 26 & 27th
Open Studio Tour 2011 of Northeastern, CT
Artists Open Studios presents more than 80 artists in as many studio locations! While you enjoy the variety and quality of the artwork, you will be supporting art, artists, and a valuable tradition in the Quiet Corner.
Admission is Free.
www.aosct.org

25th @ 4pm
Santa is Coming to Putnam
Rotary Park, Putnam
Free candy canes, hot chocolate & cookies.
www.winyradio.com

26th through Dec. 23rd
Holiday Nature Store
Audubon Center at Pomfret, CT
Gifts for all ages, with mother nature in mind. Bird feeders, houses and seed, gardening gifts, nature books and items for children, field guides, Christmas plants, nature jewelry, gift baskets, holiday swags and more. **www.ctaudubon.net**

27th @ 5pm
Holiday Dazzle Light Parade
Downtown Putnam
It's a festive, fun-filled, illuminated holiday parade to celebrate the spirit of the season!
www.winyradio.com

December

Museum Shop Holiday Fair
Thompson Historical Society
Thompson, CT
Holiday gifts, gift wrap, decorations.
New items added regularly.
www.thompsonhistorical.org

1st & 3rd
Holiday Tea Time
Celebrations Gallery & Shoppes, Pomfret, CT
Visit www.celebrationsshoppes.com for detials.

3rd & 4th
Open Studio Tour 2010 of Northeastern, CT
See description in November
Admission is Free.
www.aosct.org

2. 3, 9, 10, 16 & 17 at 7pm
4, 11 & 18 @ 2pm
ANNIE
Bradley Playhouse, Putnam, CT
The Broadway classic returns to the Bradley to tell the story of everyone's favorite orphan. Winner of the Tony Award for Best Musical with such classics as "Tomorrow" and "It's a Hard-Knock Life", Annie is the perfect feel good treat for the holidays!
Musical: $21 for Adults • $18 for Students/Senior Citizens. www.thebradleyplayhouse.org

3rd
Saint Nicholas Victorian Fair
Pomfret, CT
Christ Church's popular Holiday Fair with 'themed booths' that cater to various shopping specialties, free admission.

10th
The Nutcracker
Performing Arts of NECT
Hyde Cultural Center, Woodstock, CT
Tickets $15, on sale October 1st at Pomfret Spirit Shop and Wonderland Books.
Box Office: 860-928-2946
www.performingartsNECT.org

On Going Events

NEW: May through December
First Fridays
First Friday of every month @ 5pm
Downtown Putnam
Starting at 5PM, enjoy a variety of entertainment, specials from merchants & restaurants, art exhibitions, demonstrations and much more.

Arts & Framing
Putnam, CT
Features art exhibits throughout the season.
www.artsandframingputnam.com

Connecticut Audubon Society - Center at Pomfret
Pomfret, CT
Guided walks, bird watches and more.
www.ctaudubon.net

Silver Circle Studio
Putnam, CT
Features art exhibits and workshops throughout the season.
www.silvercirclestudio.com

The Vanilla Bean Cafe
Pomfret, CT
www.vanillabeancafe.com
The Vanilla Bean features live folk music every Saturday @ 8 PM. and displays artwork from local artisans.

facebook **Follow The Putnam Traveler on Facebook.**

Putnam Traveler's Weekend Trip Planner

WHERE TO STAY, DINE & BE ENTERTAINED...

The Mansion at Bald Hill, Woodstock

❖ FRIDAY AFTERNOON CHECK IN:

Check into the ***Mansion at Bald Hill*** **(www.mansionatbaldhill.com)** located in beautiful Woodstock. Step back in Time and enjoy a summer residence built with grace and elegance during America's Industrial age. Enjoy accommodations befitting the comfort and character of this bygone era. The home features six exquisite guest rooms with private baths. Breakfast is served in the formal dining room or on the terrace, where you are bathed in sunlight and surrounded by peaceful garden splendor.

For visitors who prefer to stay in a hotel, check into ***America's Best Value Inn*** **(www.quietcornerinn.com)** in Brooklyn–rated the "Best of the Best" among America's Best Value Inn properties.

❖ FRIDAY NIGHT DINNER:

Dine inside or out on the patio at ***Bella's Bistro*** **(www.bellasbistromarket.com)** located in downtown Putnam. Bella's prepares and serves flavorful culinary creations using only the freshest ingredients pared with wine selected to accompany their seasonal menu. Enjoy Bella's famous Spaghetti & Meatballs, Grilled Filet Mignon, Scallops Florentine, or grilled pizza, there is something here for everyone and the service is excellent!

If you happen to be visiting the first Friday of the month don't miss the excitement of ***First Fridays*** (check it out Facebook) in downtown Putnam. First Fridays (running May through December) celebrates all that Putnam has to offer...visual arts, fine culinary, quaint shopping, performing arts and world-class antiques.

❖ SATURDAY BREAKFAST:

Enjoy coffee & treats–made from scratch–including muffins, Eclairs, Biscotti and more at ***Victoria Station Café*** **(www.victoriastationcafe.com)** located in downtown Putnam. This family-run coffee house is a popular gathering place for visitors and residents alike. The owner's daughters even help to bake the homemade dog biscuits for your four-legged friends. Stop in for breakfast or anytime you are craving sweets!

❖ SATURDAY MID-MORNING:

Fall is the perfect season to celebrate the great outdoors in The Last Green Valley. The air is crisp and the leaves transform into brilliant autumnal colors. What better way to embrace the season than by getting out of the house and exploring the natural wonders that embody where we live? Enjoy at least one of the more than 100 free guided hikes, walks, and paddles during the month of October – ***Walktober***, and highlighting more than 35 special events throughout the 35 towns of The Last Green Valley National Heritage Corridor in northeastern Connecticut and south central Massachusetts. Visit **www.thelastgreenvalley.org** to view and/or download the complete Walktober schedule.

❖ SATURDAY LUNCH:

Enjoy a scenic drive to Eastford and stop for lunch at ***Coriander*** located in the center of town. Coriander prides itself on offering food that is done in-house, made from scratch, and made with fresh ingredients purchased from local farms. The café menu focuses on gourmet sandwiches and soups with fresh baked bread and homemade bagels. The general store features penny candy, local honey, maple syrup, and Hosmer Mountain soda. Find them on Facebook.

❖ SATURDAY AFTERNOON:

Do some early Christmas shopping, see the ***"Dear Santa"*** article on pages 12 & 13 in this issue of the Putnam Traveler for some fun ideas for everyone on your wish list! ***The Roseland Craft Festival*** **(www.historicnewengland.org)**, located in Woodstock, held on October 15th & 16th, is a popular event for residents and visitors. Or visit local artists during the ***Artists' Open Studio Tours*** **(www.aosct.org)** offered November 25th through 27th and December 3rd & 4th. This self-guided art adventure allows buyers to visit over 70 artists in their own environment!

❖ SATURDAY DINNER:

Whether you are staying at the ***Mansion at Bald Hill*** **(www.mansionatbaldhill.com)** or somewhere else, be sure to make reservations for dinner there! The restaurant is elegant, the staff is superb, and the food is fabulous! After dinner, enjoy a live performance at the ***Bradley Playhouse*** **(www.thebradleyplayhouse.org)** or at the ***Complex for Performing Arts*** **(www.thecpac.org)** both located on Front Street in downtown Putnam.

❖ SUNDAY MORNING:

Enjoy Sunday Brunch at ***The Vanilla Bean Café*** **(www.thevanillabeancafe.com)** in Pomfret. The Vanilla Bean offers unique breakfast items prepared with locally grown ingredients such as Peach Pancakes served with warm maple syrup, Pesto Scrambled Eggs, Burritos, Potato Cake Benedict and fresh squeezed orange juice. The menu changes daily and is posted online.

Top off your weekend with a visit to a local winery. ***Taylor Brooke Vineyards*** in Woodstock and ***Sharpe Hill Vineyards*** in Pomfret both offer tastings on the weekends. Or visit an orchard to pick-your-own apples and pumpkins. ***Lapsley Orchards*** in Pomfret offers hay rides throughout the season. In December visit a tree farm and pick up your Christmas tree and some holiday decorations! Until November, you can visit ***Fort Hill Farms*** in Thompson and take the corn maze challenge. Visit ***Logee's Greenhouses*** in Danielson where you will find a huge selection of unique indoor plants.

There is something here for everyone! Visit **www.visitnect.com** for a complete listing of local events, accomodations, dining, shopping and more! And don't forget to tell local merchants you found them in the Putnam Traveler newspaper.

Thank you for visiting northeastern Connecticut...we look forward to bringing you more weekend planner ideas in future issues of the Putnam Traveler.

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"The Vanilla Bean Café in Pomfret is one of those rare places that truly has something for everyone...Oh, yes - the food is truly delicious, too." - Bill Daley - *Hartford Courant*

www.TheVanillaBeanCafe.com

Dear Santa...Hint, hint...

You think it's only fall but smart shoppers are already gearing up for the holidays. Now's the time to find out what your friends and family want for Christmas. Here's what some Quiet Corner community members have on their lists.

BY CRIS CADIZ & FRIENDS

Dear Santa,

I have been a very good girl this year! What I really want for Christmas is...

- a Daniel Roy painting from Celebrations (Pomfret)
- a butter necklace from Silver Circle Gallery (Putnam)
- dinner at Putnam's 85 Main, Bella's, JD Coopers, The Courthouse Bar and Grille, Jessica Tuesday's, Jade Garden, Mozzarellas (Dayville)...ok, I like to eat out.
- a tree peony from Sprucedale Gardens (Pomfret)
- a facial from Salon One Day Spa (Pomfret)
- flagstone from Riverview Landscape Supply (Putnam)
- new work boots from Danielson Surplus (Danielson)
- a garden hoe from Putnam Farmer's Co-op (Putnam)
- Stonewall Kitchen goodies from Heart and Home (Danielson)
- "Life Is Good" socks from The Trinket Shoppe (Danielson)
- Coney Dog from Nikki's Dog House (Putnam)
- bottle of Bailey's from Friendly Spirits (Danielson)

Have a Merry Christmas Santa. I'll leave cookies.

Karen Osbrey
Owner, WINY Radio, Putnam, Connecticut

Nikki's Dog House - Putnam

Pangaea Wine Bar - Putnam

Dear Santa,

We honestly have everything that we could ever want, especially one another. Santa Claus, we know how lucky we are to have that at this season. However, of course we'd love some things from the many amazing shops in our area! Here is our list...

- Levi the Bulldog – requests treats and toys from the Putnam Farmer's Coop. He also would like a new doggie collar. He loves the one in blue– one of Putnam's colors
- Robert – He would love have some new work gloves from Modern Lumber. He also requested a new sled from Aubuchon Hardware so we can go sledding as a family (Putnam)
- Alexander – Alexander's list is long, Santa. He LOVES toys!!!! And all of them! He would love to get some books and a new puzzle from Wonderland Books, and some small toy cars from Finders Keepers. He would also love to get a nice warm wool sweater in forest green with orange and a pair of matching gloves created by the talented ladies who knit at Woolworks to wear on Christmas Day (Putnam)
- Me? Santa, I truly want one thing and one thing only – A NIGHT OUT IN MY FAVORITE TOWN (Putnam) with my husband and son! I would love for us to start the evening with a walk along the riverfront to admire the lights, make our way toward Pangaea Wine Bar for an appetizer (where a surprise bouquet from Glimpse of Gaia just happen to be awaiting me at our table!), and then head out for a show at the Bradley. This perfect evening would include dinner at one of the wonderful restaurants we are fortunate enough to have in town.

In all seriousness, Santa – The Viens Family knows how lucky we are to live in such a wonderful region and to be blessed with one another. We would like to pass along to the entire community the feelings of hope for a bright future for our area and peace in our homes. Happy Holidays!

The Viens Family –

Robert, Maria, Alexander & Levi
Putnam, Connecticut

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& Dinner 4-8:00
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Woolworksltd.blogspot.com

Dear Santa,

What would be a great Christmas present for my family & the whole Quiet Corner community? We would love to see the shovel go in the ground for the new Regional Community Family YMCA! We're almost there...just need to finish fundraising and it will happen. We look forward to quality time spent together at the new Y with a gym, competition length swimming pool, a child-watch center and lots more.

Celebrations - Pomfret

Here's the rest of our list:

For me...

- dinner at 85 Main Street or Bella's (Putnam). If it's warm enough we can sit on the patio!
- some great books from Wonderland Book Shop (Putnam)
- A new holiday sweater from Coco's Cottage in Woodstock is just what I need for a Christmas
- a pre-holiday haircut at Elan with Christy (Putnam)
- I know you'll find the perfect gift at one of the wonderful boutiques in the Quiet Corner (Celebrations & Hazelwood in Pomfret and Silver Circle Studio in Putnam)

For my kids...

- a new bike for Laurence from Danielson Adventure Sports (Danielson)
- an orchid for my daughter-in-law, Jane, from Glimpse of Gaia Florist (Putnam)

For the Grandkids, Helen, Newell and Peter...

- books for Helen and fantastic toys for the boys at Wonderland Books (Putnam)
- Legos from Finders Keepers for Peter & Newell (Putnam)
- hot dogs at Nikki's and watch the trains overhead...or hot cocoa from Victoria's Station after a show at Bradley Theater (Putnam)
- tickets to the Nutcracker (with dancers from New York) at Hyde Cultural Center on (Dec. 10th) and to Annie at the Bradley Playhouse on Dec. 11th (Putnam)

What a busy holiday season this will be with events all over the Quiet Corner! Santa, please don't forget the Interact Kids from Rotary Club, who will be raising Christmas funds in front of WINY. They will give other families a wonderful holiday.

Betty Hale
Pomfret, Connecticut

Martha's Herbary - Pomfret

Dear Santa,

For Christmas this year I would really like...

- a nice warm sweater from Coco's Cottage (Woodstock)
- a bird feeder from Martha's Herbary (Pomfret)
- a clock from Hazelwood (Pomfret)
- silver earrings from Silver Circle (Putnam)
- hair cut and manicure from Delicate Beauty (Dayville)
- dinner at the Mansion at Bald Hill with my husband (Woodstock)
- lunch at 85 Main with a girlfriend (Putnam)
- a new dishwasher from Bousquet's (Danielson)
- a new sofa from Bill's Bedding (Danielson)
- a pedicure from Salon One (Pomfret)
- a handmade necklace and earrings and a beautiful painting from a local artist from Celebrations (Pomfret)

Look Santa, you can get all of these locally!

Sincerely, Judy Haines
Owner, Friendly Spirits, Danielson, Connecticut

Many Quiet Corner shops have "Wish List" programs, where you can write down the items you like and have your friends & family come in and buy them for you. Most also offer gift certificates if you can't make a decision. Make sure you ask, so that everyone is happy this holiday.

Support Your Community

Shop Local this Holiday Season. "For every $100 spent in locally owned independent stores, $68 returns to the community through taxes, payroll and other expenditures. If you spend that in a national chain, only $43 stays here. Spend it online and nothing comes home." www.the350project.net

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LESLIE SWEETNAM aerial photographer

AT DAWN & DUSK

Soaring over the hills and valleys of northeastern Connecticut at dawn and dusk, artist G. Leslie Sweetnam, sees the relationships between humans and nature in a special way. Like a slow, awkward bird, he maneuvers his small plane in large circles looking for the perfect image, that special something that catches his eye.

BY NANCY WEISS

In a moment the light changes and the beauty he sought to preserve with his Fuji 6x9cm medium format camera or his Canon 12.6Mp digital accessorized with a Kenyon Gyrostabilizer, may elude him, or perhaps not. Sweetnam tweaks the images he sees with Photoshop. He uses the computer program to balance color and contrast. Sometimes he uses the gradient tool to eliminate haze, but with every photo, his goal is to present a shot that captures the reality of the moment. He prints his work on a Canon iPF6300 printer with archival ink. Masterpieces spring out of the evocative landscape.

Sweetnam, a resident of the Quiet Corner for 35 years, spent time selling handmade wood products at craft fairs. Brought up in the Boston area, he began a search for the perfect place to live. He wanted his home to be located no more than 100 miles from the coast. The first time he drove up route 169 to northeastern Connecticut, he knew he had found where he wanted to be.

Sweetnam built a home, married and became the father of a son. About 12 years ago his wife gave him flying lessons as a special birthday present and the world Sweetnam had come to love from a grounds' eye view opened up in refreshing new ways.

He passed his Private Pilot certification and bought a simple four-place Cessna that he keeps at an airport in South Woodstock. He shoots photos when he flies solo, using his feet on the rudder pedals to control the aircraft. He circles the images he wants to photograph and watches for other air traffic, towers and hills. With the digital camera he doesn't need to reload film, so he can click away to quickly capture the scene below him as the light changes.

"Most of my photos are taken during the first and last hours of the day. The warm light is so pleasing and the long shadows give definition to the low hills, trees and structures. In the middle of the day the landscape looks very flat, topographically and visually. The air is usually more turbulent in the middle of the day," wrote Sweetnam in his artist's statement.

While Sweetnam does some commercial work, he enjoys most sharing his photos with local environmental organizations. He is pleased that Last Green Valley, The National Parks Service, The Connecticut Audubon Society, The Nature Conservancy, The Trustees of Reservations, The Sierra Club, The Connecticut Conservation Districts, the American Farmland Trust and Edible Nutmeg magazine as well as several area land trusts use his images.

www.glsweetnam.com

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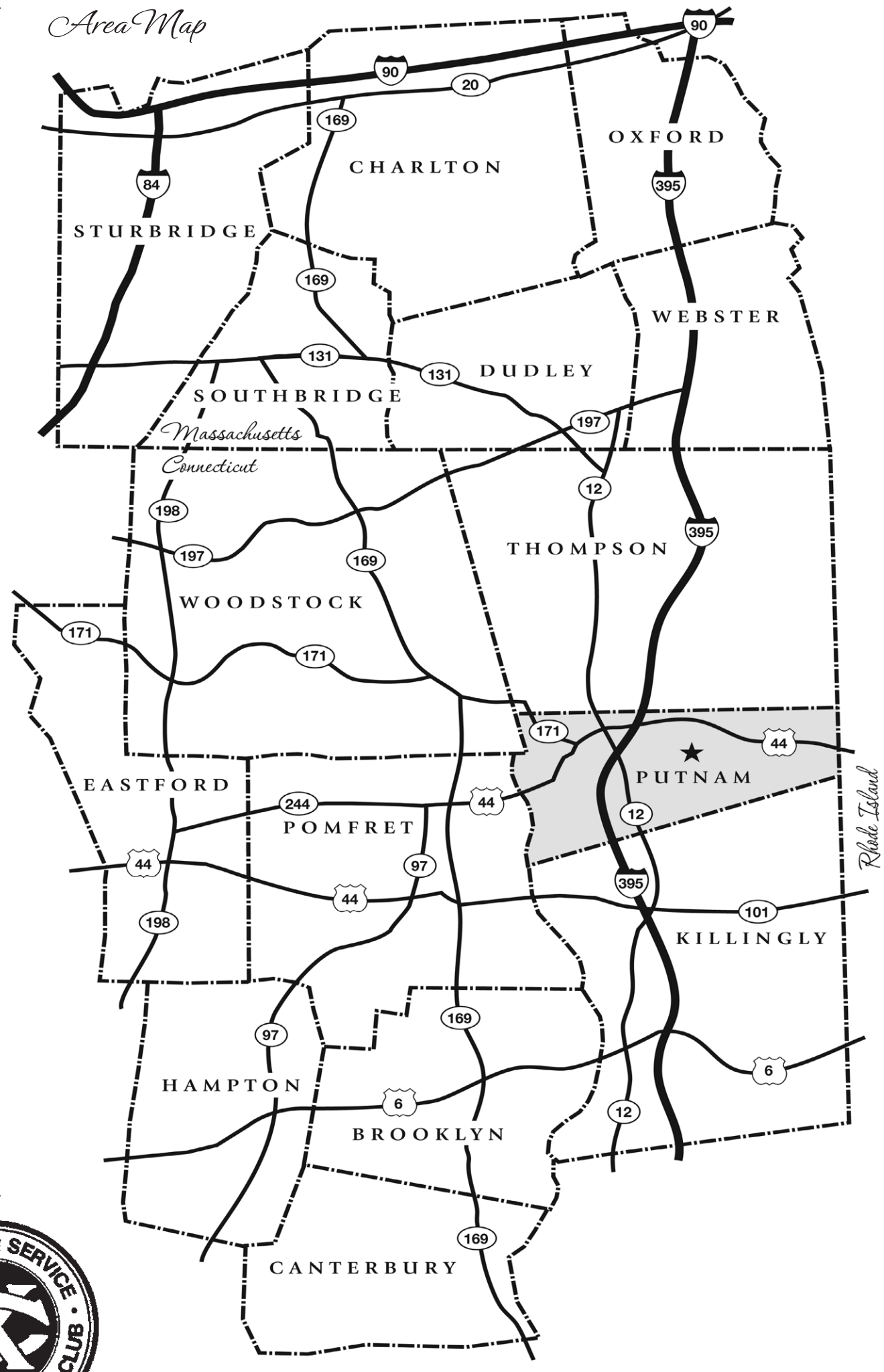
The Exchange Club of Northeastern Connecticut

Celebrating 50 Years & Over $500,000 in Donations to Community Causes

BY NANCY WEISS

Celebrating 50 years of existence is always significant. For an individual, it may trigger reflection, taking out a gym membership or hosting a lively party. For the Exchange Club of Northeastern Connecticut, the 50th anniversary of their founding in 1961 will bring together key community leaders for an evening to remember the projects they championed, the events they managed and the friendships they forged. The celebration was held on September 21 at J.D. Cooper's in Putnam.



Ron Robinson, an Exchange Club member for decades, a past president and current secretary, is an enthusiastic supporter of the club. Robinson, a retired executive from Rogers Corporation, values the local focus of the club, which is comprised of approximately 25 members on an annual basis. Members live in the 10-town area of northeastern Connecticut. The club includes men and women who are interested in developing leadership skills, community service and meeting others.

The National Exchange Club is comprised of nearly 1,000 clubs with approximately 25 in Connecticut. The Exchange Club of Northeastern Connecticut is the only one in Windham and New London counties and counts among its members several individuals, including industrialist Hans Koehl, who has 50 years of service to the club.

The roster of officers reads like a Who's Who of the area with many prominent business and professional people among its ranks. Local attorney John Harris served as club secretary for 17 years. The immediate past president is Pomfret resident, dentist, Roland Lupien. The current president is John Goodman, who is Director of Development and Communications at United Services, Inc. Judy Haines, a business owner, was the first female president of the organization.

The National Exchange Club adopted child abuse prevention as a project in 1979 and soon added domestic violence as a focus as well. The local club embraced the focus. Members volunteer with many organizations such as TEEG, United Services, Wendy's Place, Natchaug hospital and the Day Kimball Hospital Pediatric Center among others.

"We work with over 50 groups. It would be hard to enumerate all the projects we have supported over the years. We do a wine tasting event every year at the Harvest restaurant to benefit child abuse and domestic violence prevention," said Robinson.

Robinson, who holds an MBA, enrolled at Quinebaug Valley Community College and earned an associates degree in human services, when he retired from full-time employment. He wanted to do something meaningful with people and among other projects, developed a program to connect QVCC students with residents of Westcott-Wilcox Elderly Housing. Robinson currently serves on the boards of a number of community organizations, often recruiting other Exchange Club members to new activities.

The Exchange Club hosts a variety of fund-raisers in support of club projects. **The October Beer Fest on Wednesday, October 5,2011 at J.D. Cooper's in Putnam** will benefit the domestic violence prevention initiative. A new cause, Home at Last, is part of an on-going campaign to build housing for 18 veterans in nearby Jewett City. In November club members coordinate a drive for winter boots for children at WINY radio station.

"Everything we do is local. Over the past 50 years I estimate that we have donated over $500,000 to community causes. From year to year we may select different organizations, but our focus is always on meeting needs in our region," Robinson added.

Membership in the Exchange Club of Northeastern Connecticut is open to men and women interested in community service. Contact Ron Robinson at: 860-774-7667 for more information.

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